THE CHECK COLLECTOR

July-September 1999 **The Journal of** Number 51
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.

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To our members:

Write something for *The Check Collector*! We need articles about checks, check related subjects, and fiscal documents. See the list of 32 areas of collecting interests on the inside back of the mailing cover for ideas.

We retype all material. Illustrations require an **original** or a **good, clear, black and white copy, preferably as large as can be obtained**. Original checks sent in are copied and returned carefully. Any questions ask the Editor!

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The Check Collector is an effective means of reaching the check collecting hobby, and our membership of collectors and dealers of checks and related financial documents. It contains feature articles about checks and check collecting and news about the hobby.

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ASCC assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising. However, it will reprint that portion of an advertisement in which a typographical error appeared upon prompt notification of such error.

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The cover shows six engraved vignettes reprinted sometime within the last twenty years by the American Bank Note Company. Several will be familiar to those of you who collect documents with classic Nineteenth Century engravings.

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Cashing Out the Hard Way

reprint of an article by Cliff Murk

The express companies of early California were pushed into the banking business. Adams Express on October 31, 1849 sent an emissary, Dan Haskell, to California to establish an express service to tthe east. In early November he advertised in the newspaper "Alta California" that: gold dust bought, also forwarded to any of their eastern places of business; bills of exchange given in any amounts; letter-bags made up and forwarded by special messengers in steamers to Panama, trans-shipped over the isthmus and reshipped to the East -Coast.

Thus this express company on assuming business was already in the banking business and also a mail carrier.

Wells Fargo did not get to California until 1852, and on July 3 of that year announced that they were ready for business. Their advertisement was much the same as Adams Express except that they were much more ambitious in their services.

While there were other express companies operating in California, these two proved to become the biggest in a country that was growing by leaps and bounds. Gold had been discovered in '49, the Mexican War was in '46, and in '52 we have two full fledged express companies going full force.

The country was growing, as were Adams and Wells Fargo. By 1854 and '55 the East was in a depression and this was felt in California. It was further aggravated by drought which had an adverse effect on mining. Both placer and hydraulic mining were sadly curtailed by lack of water. This was reflected in the economy of the country. With this brief setting up of the scene, we are about ready for the story.

The Pacific Mail Steamer Oregon arrived February 17, 1855 with the news that Page & Bacon of Saint Louis had failed. They were the parent bank of Page, Bacon & Co. of San Francisco. Just a few days before this the San Francisco branch had transferred a million dollars to Page Bacon in Saint Louis.

Many people around San Francisco had the misguided conception that Adams Express was tied into Page & Bacon, which it was not. However a run started on Adams Express and they had to close their doors. This in turn started a run on several smaller banks and also Wells Fargo. While they were forced to close, most of them did recover and stay in business.

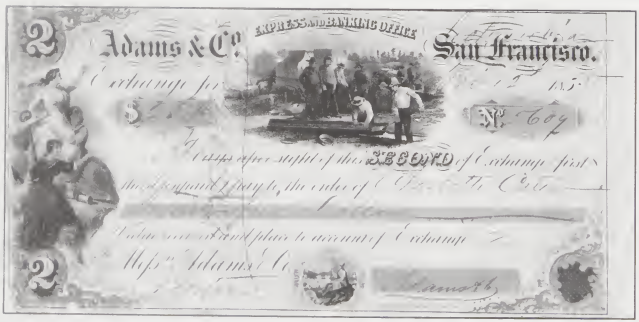


Figure 1. An Adams and Company Express and Banking Office second of exchange altered from use in San Francisco to Columbia. It is dated February 12, 1855, some five days before the run on the Sacramento office closed it. There is no indication that the bill was not honored.

It was printed by Toppan, Carpenter and Casilear, on a light blue paper.

While all this was going on Louis Remne, a French Canadian, was making a cattle drive through the Willamette valley to California and down into Sacramento. He made all the diggings, selling a cow here and a half a dozen there, always taking gold. He arrived in Sacramento minus cattle, but with $12,500. in gold in his possession which he deposited with Adams Express, after which he had a night on the town and checked into a hotel.

The next morning, Mr. Remne leisurely made his way to a nearby restaurant and ordered breakfast. Unfolding the "Sacramento Union", he was apprised of the fact of the failure of Adams to open. He halted his breakfast and immediately made his way to the Adams Express office.

With his deposit certificate in hand he fought through the mob but was put back in line. Surveying the mob, all after money, his next thought was to go to another town, but he quickly discarded this as he surmised that in all the towns the same conditions would exist. He decided that his best bet was to go out of state to Portland, Oregon.

The Steamer Columbia was due to sail shortly from San Francisco and, knowing that everyone aboard would know of the failure, he had to find a way to beat the steamer. There was no telegraph to leak the news to the north and if he was to save his $12,500, he would have to get there first. His only recourse was horseback. He went to the docks and engaged passage on a stern-wheeler that was leaving for Knight's Landing. Dealing Mr. Knight out of a horse, he set out on his 700 mile journey.

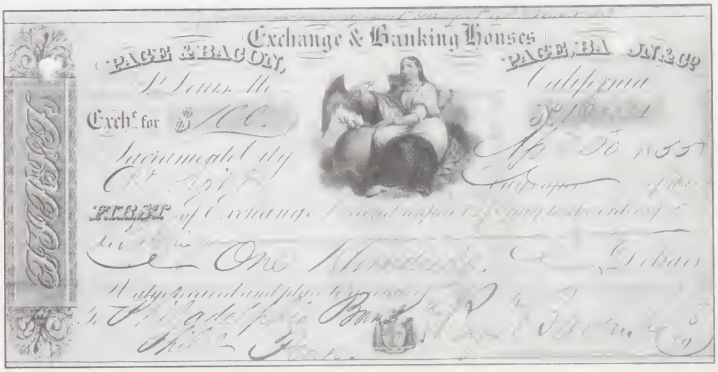


Figure 2. The company that caused all the trouble. This first of exchange was written on Page, Bacon and Company of California at Sacramento on April 30, 1855, a bit over two months after the news had arrived that the parent company, Page and Bacon of Saint Louis, had gone bankrupt. It was also printed in blue by Toppan, Carpenter and Casilear and Company of New York and Philadelphia.

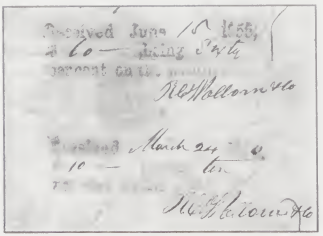


Figure 3. Although it is difficult to see in the illustration above, the bill of exchange was protested for nonpayment on June 9, 1855. The illustration to the right shows a portion of the reverse of the bill . There are two notations to the effect that the holder received 60% of the funds on June 15, 1855, and an additional 10% on March 24, 1856.

This item is shown courtesy of Gregg Voss.

In something over two days Remne was in Yreka near the Oregon border. Buying horses as he needed them, he pushed on. Three days later he was in Jacksonville. It is told that at Bear Creek he saw a camp fire and as his mount was about played out, he rode in, a dirty, unkempt, suspicious-looking wretch. The fire he rode up to was kept by some cattle drivers and they viewed him with distrust. Sensing this, he mumbled a story about having a spread down south and he was trailing some horse thieves. They fell for this and sold him a horse.

Pushing on and still worrying about the steamer he had to beat, he reached Eugene City on the fifth day. On the sixth day at sunrise he made French Prairie. Oregon City saw him at mid morning and at noon a boy ferried him across the Willamette into Portland. He hastily made his way to the Adams Express office. Presenting his certificate of deposit to the agent he explained that he was a cattle buyer and had to have cash. Seeing that the document was valid, the agent paid off to the tune of some forty-five pounds of gold!

At almost the same time this was happening, the boom of a cannon announced the arrival of the Columbia in the river. The news of the Adams failure was passed along an hour later when it docked. Adams closed its doors and never reopened them. More than one hundred businesses in San Francisco failed. Wells Fargo honored all claims and with its biggest competition gone, it had the express and money field pretty well to itself.

Jonny Remne made seven hundred miles in six days to cash a deposit receipt. Three or four years later he was trailing a herd through the Sierra Nevadas and supposedly perished in a blizzard; at least he never arrived at his destination. The author hopes he went out singing "There's A Gold Mine in The Sky".

Figure 4. An Adams and Company Express and Banking Office certificate of deposit used in San Francisco on November 4 1854. This is probably similar to the one issued to Louis Remne in Sacramento three months later. Both Page and Bacon and Adams Express used a variety of attractive financial documents. This one is shown courtesy of Coleman Leifer.

This article originally appeared in Volume VI, Number 2, Issue 22 of *The Check List* in April of 1975. The illustrations and notes concerning them were added for this issue.

Makeovers

by Michael Zier

First, what is a "makeover"? A makeover is a check on which the bank name has been scratched out and another bank name written in. The check has literally been "made over" to another bank. See any of the illustrations for an example.

While I worked for the Riggs National Bank of Washington, DC, I was fortunate enough to be handling old document disposal (among other things). During this time, I added many items to the bank's historical collection(s). The makeover checks intrigued me so I kept them. By the way, the late Eldridge Jones, onetime branch manager at Riggs, is the person who named these fascinating items. The checks I had access to were as follows:

1851-1861 Farmers & Mechanics Bank of Georgetown, DC
1872-1928 Farmers & Mechanics National Bank of Georgetown, DC
1896-1934 Riggs National Bank of Washington, DC

All but a few of the checks that went into the bank's historical collections came from the last group.

I have a long list of all the District of Columbia banks for which I found checks made over to Riggs or Farmers and Mechanics. Several of the more interesting ones are used as illustrations.

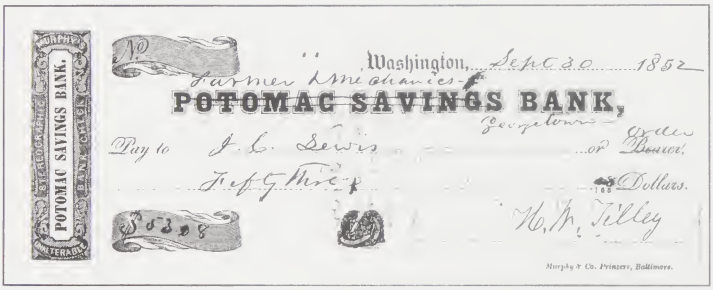


Figure 1. An 1852 check from the Potomac Savings Bank made over to the Farmers & Mechanics Bank of Georgetown, DC. It was printed by Murphy & Co. of Baltimore, and at the left bears the claim that it is 'stereographic' and 'unalterable.'

Although "makeovers" were once relatively common (but less than one percent of all checks were "makeovers"), they are no longer encountered. Possible exception: when Riggs bought its Virginia and Maryland subsidiaries, I heard rumors that they allowed across-the-counter and deposited makeovers. I was no longer in the check-processing group, so I could not verify this. Interesting, if true!

Makeovers are not encountered today because there is no way to "make over" the MICR encoding which shows which bank the check is drawn on. However, there is nothing to prevent one from writing a makeover check (except for the very real possibility that it will take an inordinate amount of time to process and the certain additional bank fees you will be charged!).

On older makeover checks, do determine what the original bank was and what the "made over to" bank was before you decide that this particular check does or does not belong in your collection. If you collect the checks of a particular bank, remember that makeovers both from and to your bank are appropriate for your collection. Frequently, the makeover is from a Territorial bank (I have checks made over from banks in Indian Territory), which makes it very collectible!

Remember that on checks with two bank names (one on the top, one on the bottom, usually lower left), the check is actually from the bank on the bottom. For example, if the bank name on the top is "Third National Bank of Chicago, Illinois," and

the bank on the bottom is "Centennial National Bank of Philadelphia," the check is a Philadelphia check, not a Chicago check. More frequently will be found a top bank name from someplace exciting (example: First National Bank of Bartlesville, Oklahoma Territory) and a bottom bank name of some undistinguished bank in New York. Check the routing/transit numbers if they are present: this is a New York check (r/t will be of the form "1/#")! Most dealers will sell it as a Bartlesville check, which it is not! The modern equivalent is a check with your name imprinted in the upper left corner (the bank name on the top of the check), with a dateline of Honolulu, Hawaii, drawn on the Riggs National Bank of Washington, DC (the name on the bottom of the check). Is this a Hawaii check? NO! It is a Washington, DC check.

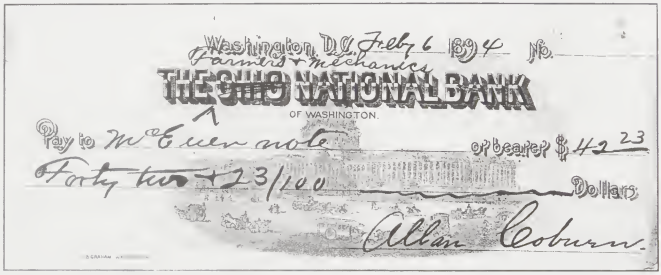

Washington, D.C. Feby 6 1894 No.
Farmers + Mechanics
THE OHIO NATIONAL BANK
OF WASHINGTON.
Pay to Mr E Allen or bearer $42 23
Forty two + 23/100 Dollars
Allan Coburn.

Figure 2. A makeover from the Ohio National Bank to the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank of Washington in 1894. The printer is A. B. Graham, of Washington.

Some suggestions for collecting makeovers:

1. From your favorite bank(s) to as many different banks/states as possible
2. To your favorite bank(s) from as many different banks/states as possible
3. From banks in a particular city/state (bonus points for out-of-city/state)
4. To banks in a particular city/state (bonus points for out-of-city/state)
5. Certified makeovers (yes, they do exist, see Figure 4)
6. To/from banks in another country (see Figure 5)
7. Restricted by amount (I have an under-a-dollar subcollection)
8. Particular dates (your birthday, for example)

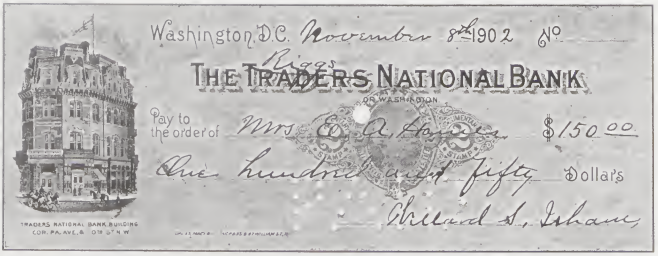

Washington D.C. November 8th 1902 No
Riggs
THE TRADERS NATIONAL BANK
OF WASHINGTON
Pay to the order of Mrs. E. A. Harper $150 00
One hundred and fifty Dollars
Willard S. Isham
TRADERS NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
COR. PA. AVE. & 9TH ST. N.W.

Figure 3. A check made over from the Traders National Bank to the Riggs National Bank in 1902. It bears a Type X7 Spanish American War imprinted revenue with a circular punch to indicate that it had been redeemed. The check was printed by Corlies, Macy & Co. of New York.

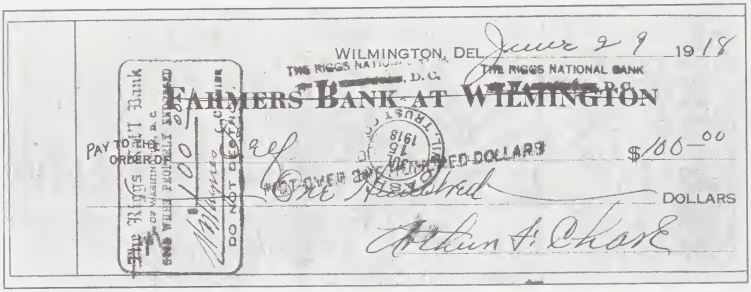


Figure 4. A certified makeover from the Farmers Bank of Wilmington, Delaware to the Riggs National Bank in 1918.

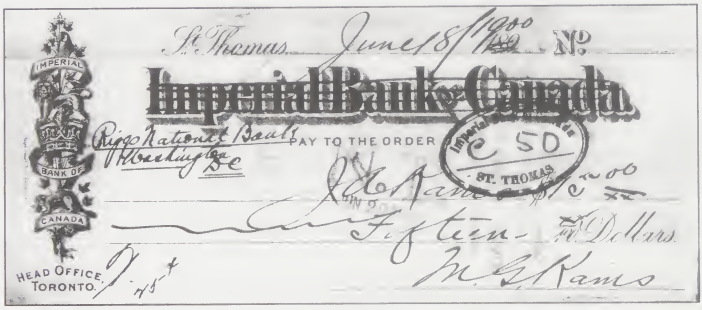


Figure 5. A foreign makeover using a check from the Imperial Bank of Canada issued at Saint Thomas.

I would love to hear from you about your particular collection of makeovers. If you would like a sample makeover (most likely from a DC, MD or VA bank) send me a #10 SASE with your request. I'll fill as many requests as I can. Send to: Michael A. Zier, 12424 Shadow Lane, Bowie, MD 20715.

Happy Hunting!

The 14th Annual National and World Paper Money Convention will be held Thursday through Sunday, October 21-24, 1999 at the Henry VIII Hotel, 4690 North Lindbergh Blvd., Saint Louis, MO. Hours are noon-6 pm on Thursday, 10 am to 6 pm Friday and Saturday, and 10 am to 1 pm Sunday.

A meeting of the ASCC is scheduled for 10 am Saturday, October 23 in conjunction with the show. Location will be announced in the show program.

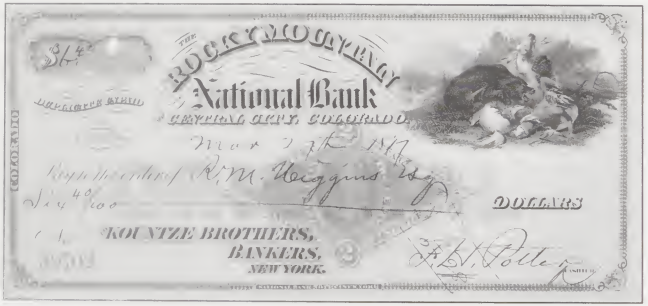
Afterword

In the foregoing article, Mike Zier makes several assertions that will not be accepted by every collector.

First, "Remember that on checks with two bank names (one on the top, one on the bottom, usually lower left), the check is actually from the bank on the bottom."

These are usually classified as drafts.

Those who collect by bank may well consider the second bank as the source of the draft. However, many collectors who collect by region or state will consider the location expressed in the dateline as the origin of the draft when deciding if it fits into their collection or not. I know of several collectors who do this, but also include any drafts where the second bank is located in the region they collect.



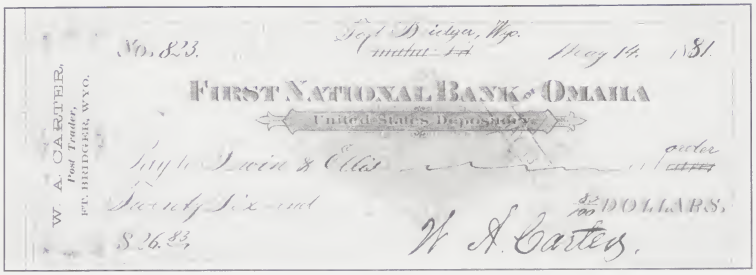
Example 1. This handsome draft was drawn in Cripple Creek, Colorado on the Rocky Mountain National Bank, payable at Kountze Brothers of New York. Where would you file it? I vote for Colorado, but a New York collector might think otherwise.

It was printed by the National Bank Note Company, and not coincidentally bears a vignette also illustrated on this issue's cover.

Second. "The modern equivalent is a custom-printed check with your name imprinted in the upper left corner (the bank name on the top of the check), with a dateline of Honolulu, Hawaii (where you happen to live), drawn on the Riggs National Bank of Washington, DC (the name on the bottom of the check). Is this a Hawaii check? NO!"

In the foregoing quotation, I assume that there is only one bank involved. The issue then is whether checks with a dateline in one area and a bank in another are collectible according to dateline or bank area. I would think that the answer is either or both. Many collectors would be happy to include the check described in the previous paragraph in their Hawaiian section, since it was either used there or primarily intended to be - or just had a legitimate Hawaiian connection. Where the issuing bank is located is not of primary importance in such a collection, and need not be.

A related issue is where to classify checks or drafts where the dateline has been changed, but the bank has not. It is clear that Mike would group them with any other checks written from the location of the bank, as he defines that location, whereas if the bank name had also been changed to one consistent with the new dateline location, it would be considered to be a check from the area of the new dateline. Again, a number of collectors would take a slightly different position, that the dateline change alone is significant and controls the area that the check is 'from.' This is certainly the approach taken in the Castenholz *Field Guides*.



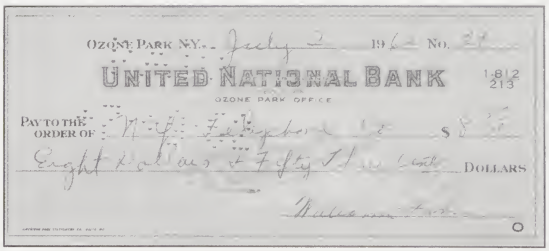
Example 2. This check was used in Fort Bridger, Wyoming by W. A. Carter, drawn on the First National Bank of Omaha. There are good reasons to include such an item in a collection of Nebraska or Midwestern checks, but it fits as well or better into a Wyoming collection, which is where it is found in the *Field Guides*. Warren Anderson illustrated this check in "Owning Western History," and it now resides in the collection of the Editor (who files it under Wyoming.)

The purpose of this afterword is to state my opinion that Mike may be correct about which bank is ultimately going to handle a transaction, but that a collector is free to collect according to where an instrument was used, or where the first bank on a draft was located, if either of those makes sense. Reader commentary on this would be welcome!

- Editor

Longest Bank Title Challenge

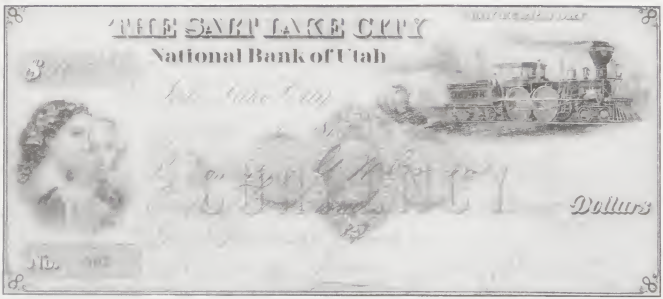
by Roger Patterson



This rather plain check arguably bears the longest bank title (at least for United States checks): United National Bank of Long Island in New York, Ozone Park Office. Can anyone top that?

An Interesting Utah Draft

by Coleman Leifer



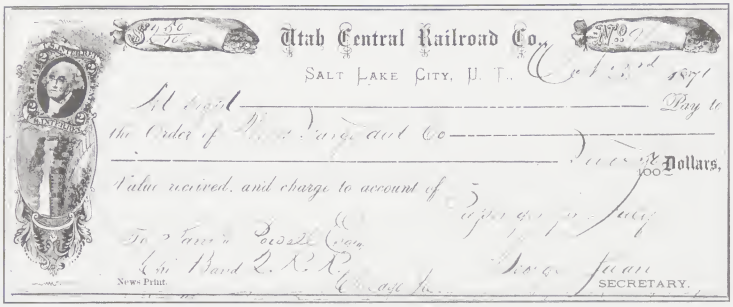
This 1873 territorial draft from the Salt Lake City National Bank was printed by the American Bank Note Company. It has an unpunched revenue stamp RN-D1 and a red "CURRENCY" overprint. No other ABN check or draft from Utah is listed in the revised Field Guide to Revenue Stamped Paper and less than ten are listed for all the Western states.

An interesting aspect of this attractive draft is that the vignette of the railroad engine shows the "U.C.P. R.R." There was no "U.C.P. R.R" but there were the Utah Central Railroad and the Central Pacific Railroad. The engraver used a bit of artistic license to combine the names of the two lines.

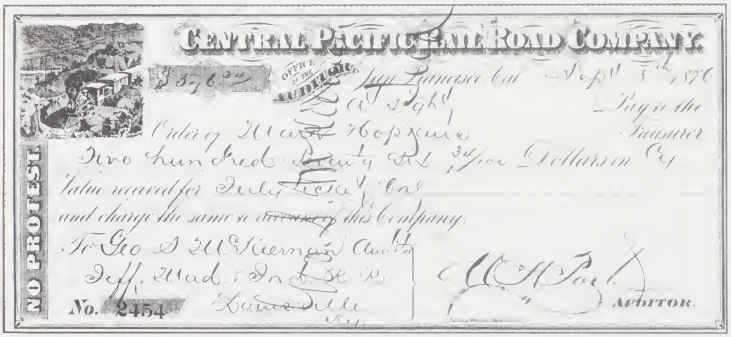
The story of the Central Pacific Railroad is a familiar one and was recounted in the April-June 1999 edition of The Check Collector in an article by Charles Kemp. Suffice to say that the railroad was completed to Promontory, Utah on May 10, 1869. Leland Stanford, the President of the Central Pacific, drove the golden spike linking the line with the Union Pacific. The spike was engraved with the prayer "May God continue the unity of our country as the railroad unites the two great oceans of the world."

Brigham Young knew what effect the new railroad line would have on Utah and two days after the ceremony at Promontory the Mormon citizens of Utah began construction of their own railroad, the Utah Central, to connect with the transcontinental line at Ogden. In contrast to the heavily subsidized Central Pacific and Union Pacific, the Utah Central was built, in Mormon tradition, as a cooperative effort with volunteer crews and much of the right-of-way was donated. The line was dedicated on January 10, 1870. Not to be outdone by Leland Stanford, Brigham Young had his own spike-driving ceremony using a spike made of Utah iron and engraved with "Holiness to the Lord."

Also illustrated with this article are a draft from the Utah Central payable to Wells, Fargo and Company and two Central Pacific drafts that are different from the one shown in the previous *Check Collector* article. Both of the Central Pacific drafts have revenue stamps on the back canceled by Central Pacific handstamps



The Utah Central draft payable to Wells, Fargo and Company.



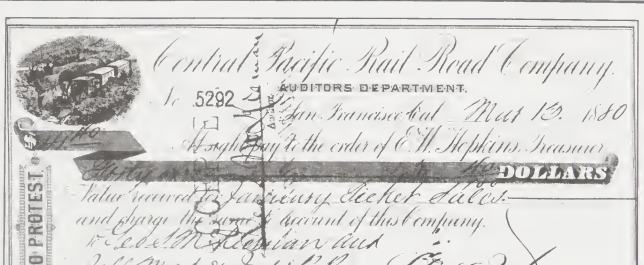
One of the two Central Pacific Railroad drafts mentioned, this one payable to the order of Mark Hopkins. For information on the genesis of the CPRR, see "Theodore Judah, Forgotten Railroad Builder" by Charles Kemp, in the previous issue of *The Check Collector*.

The second Central Pacific draft is on the following page.

If you are in the Salt Lake City area be sure to visit the Golden Spike National Historical Site located 30 miles west of Interstate 15 at Brigham City. There are full-scale operating replicas of the Central Pacific "Jupiter" and the Union Pacific "119" steam locomotives. During the summer months there is a reenactment of the meeting of the two locomotives.

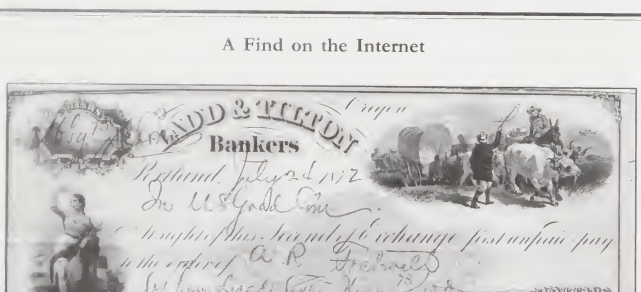
References:

Durham, Michael S., *Desert Between the Mountains*. Henry Holt and Company, 1997
Castenholz, B.J., *A Field Guide to Revenue Stamped Paper, Part 1, The Western States, revised*. Castenholz and Sons, 1996



A second type of draft used by the Central Pacific Railroad Company, this one in 1880. (See article on the preceding two pages.)

A Find on the Internet



In the previous article it was mentioned that there are fewer than ten American Bank Note Company checks or drafts listed for all the Western states in the revised Castenholz *Guide* for that area. This bill of exchange from Portland, Oregon is not listed in the *Guide*, so it adds one more to the group known. Also, there are no RN C-1's listed for Oregon, so it is a first in that category.

This second of exchange was drawn by Ladd and Tilton on A.E. and C.E. Tilton of New York and made payable in US gold coin. The body of the bill is printed in black, with the name and address of the New York Tiltons in dark blue.

The Tzanck Check

Fine Art Lesson courtesy of Bob Cochran

Bob Cochran, President of The Society of Paper Money Collectors, sent me an e-mail about a month ago asking if I could do anything to help someone who was doing research on certain works of Marcel Duchamp. Bob became involved when Gregg Voss sent him a copy of the following letter:

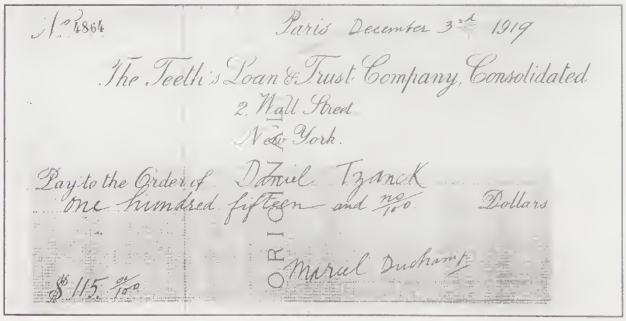
"Dear Greg,

In response to your ad in the *Paper Collector's Marketplace (Sept. '98)* for PRE- 1970's CHECKS, I have a research question hopefully you will be able to help me with. I am writing on behalf of Rhonda Roland Shearer, who is writing a book on the artist Marcel Duchamp (early 1900s-1968). Ms. Shearer has discovered that many of Duchamp's "Readymade" objects are fake, that is, she believes that Duchamp manipulated, or even created his own objects, and then called them readymades even though they were not. We are trying to determine whether a specific work of his Tzanck Check, is one of these items.

Enclosed are photocopies and some information on the Tzanck Check created by Marcel Duchamp. As you will read in the entry, Duchamp hand-made this check. We are curious to know if there were any checks that look like this one from that time period, on or before 1919? Any similarity at all -same bank name, check design, etc. Your suggestions or leads (any other check collectors you could direct me to?) would be immensely helpful

You may contact me at the number below and my e-mail address is spgturbo&aol.com. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,
Gina Guerra for
Rhonda Roland Shearer
Art Science Research Laboratory, Inc."



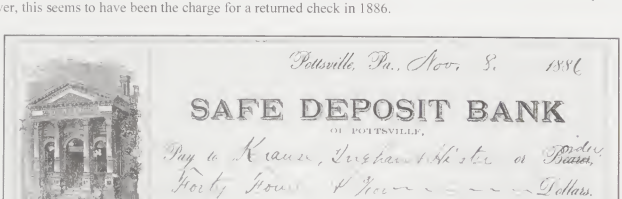
From the description for a website that wouldn't open: Marcel Duchamp 1887-1968. Marcel Duchamp was a leading artist in Cubism, Dadaism, Surrealism, Op Art and Pop Art. He became known in 1913, when he was twenty-six, for his avant-garde painting, "Nude Descending A Staircase."

Duchamp created the check shown for his dentist, Daniel Tzanck, in lieu of payment for dental treatment - hence The Teeth's Loan and Trust Company, Consolidated. The artist is said to have bought it back from his dentist for more than the amount for which the 'check' was drawn. It would seem unlikely that there is any bank with a name remotely like Teeth's Loan and Trust, but there may be a check which looks like this one. If any member has any information, please let the Editor know.

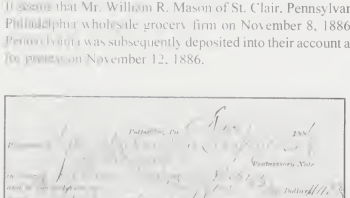
Returned Check - 25¢ Bank Charge

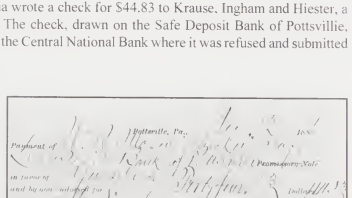
by Benny Bolin

In these days of $25 charges from the bank for a returned check for ANY reason, a charge of $0.25 is almost incomprehensible. However, this seems to have been the charge for a returned check in 1886.


Pottsville, Pa., Nov. 8, 1886
SAFE DEPOSIT BANK
OF POTTSVILLE,
Pay to Krause, Ingham & Hiester or Bearer,
Forty four 44/100 Dollars.
$44 00

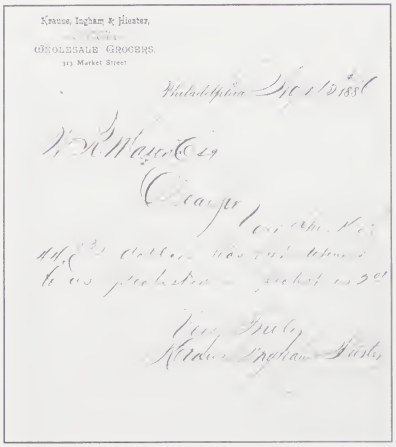
It seems that Mr. William R. Mason of St. Clair, Pennsylvania wrote a check for $44.83 to Krause, Ingham and Hiester, a Philadelphia wholesale grocery firm on November 8, 1886. The check, drawn on the Safe Deposit Bank of Pottsville, Pennsylvania was subsequently deposited into their account at the Central National Bank where it was refused and submitted for protest on November 12, 1886.

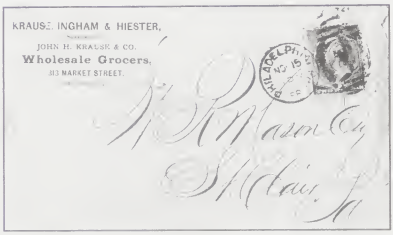



Pottsville, Pa.,
Payment of
Bank of
(Promissory Note)
Dollars
dated
188 being this day duly demanded, and refused,
at bank been delivered to me for protest by THE SAFE DEPOSIT BANK OF POTTSVILLE, the
holder, and I have this day protested it accordingly, and you will be looked to
for payment of the same and all which you hereby have notice.
WILLIAM NEWELL,
Notary Public
Protest

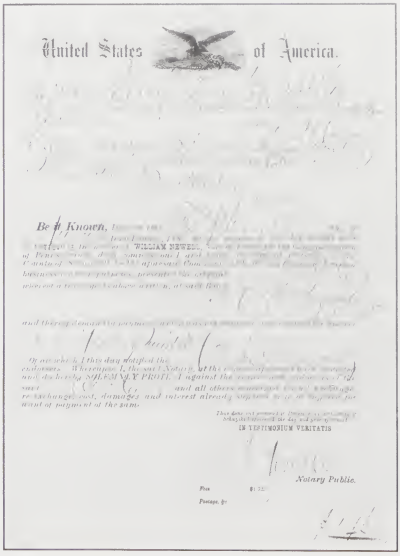
Protest forms drawn by Mr. William Newell, Notary Public were completed in two copies, one for Mr. Mason and the other for Krause, Ingham and Hiester. The reason given for refusing the check was *"Not Provided for?"* (insufficient funds??).

Krause, Ingham and Hiester sent Mr. Mason a letter dated November 15, 1886 alerting him to the fact that his check was returned and that the protest was $2.01.


Krause, Ingham & Hiester,
WHOLESALE GROCERS.
313 Market Street


KRAUSE, INGHAM & HIESTER,
JOHN H. KRAUSE & CO.
Wholesale Grocers,
313 MARKET STREET.

As outlined on the protest form, the fee to the notary public, Mr. Newell, for the protest paperwork was $1.72; postage was $0.04 which would make the bank charge for the returned check $0.25. Whether Mr. Mason ever made good on his bad check is not known.


United States of America.

Be it Known,

WILLIAM NEWELL,

SOLEMNLY PROTEST

IN TESTIMONIUM VERITATIS

Notary Public.

The Saint Louis, Alton and Terre Haute Railroad or is it the Other Way Around?

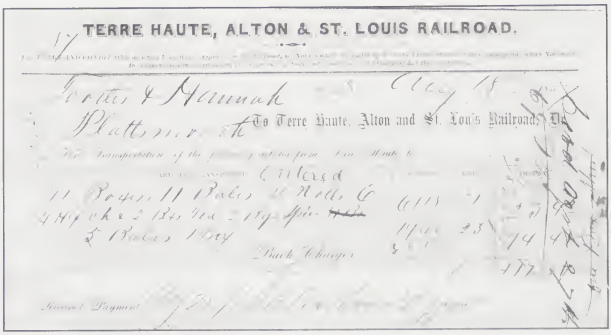
by Bob Hohertz

This beautiful stock certificate was another find on the Internet. Issued on December 14, 1874 for one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each, it bears an RN-U1 orange twenty-five cent imprinted revenue. All printing on the certificate, including the vignettes, is in red. The printers were Henry Seibert & Bros., Ledger Building, Cor. William & Spruce St., N Y.

When this railway was first proposed and financed, it was the Terre Haute, Alton and Saint Louis Railroad. Terre Haute is an old settlement on the Wabash River, incorporated in 1832, when it had a population in the range of 1,500. It was granted a town charter in 1838, and by the early 1840's the population had grown to more than 5,000.

Terre Haute was central to the movement of supplies along the Wabash and Ohio river systems. When it became necessary to explore other means of transport, a rail line was constructed between there and Indianapolis. Another was proposed to link Terre Haute and Illinoistown (now East Saint Louis), which would have been beneficial to Saint Louis as well. The problem was that the Illinois legislature was based in Alton, and they did not want to see another town further downriver to grow at its expense. The answer was to pass legislation to prohibit a line between Terre Haute and Saint Louis unless it passed through Alton, a somewhat indirect route. However, that is what was built. In 1856, 189 miles of track connecting the two cities were opened to passengers and freight.

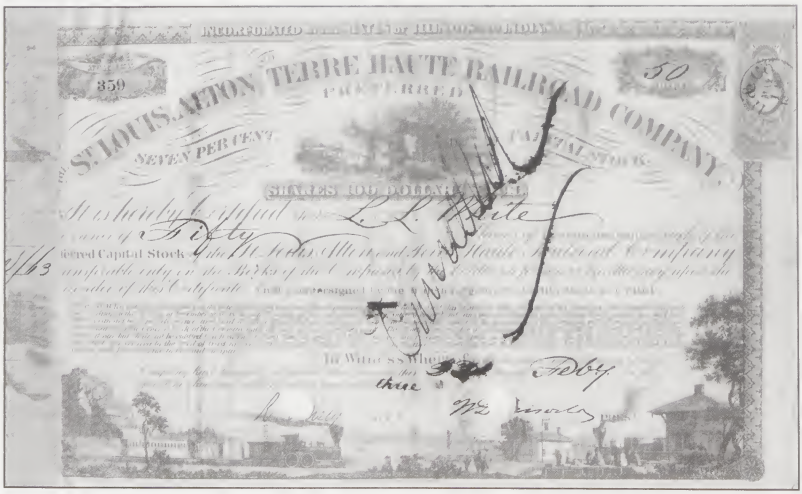
Early financing of the railroad involved bearer notes. These are illustrated in *Terre Haute, Alton & St. Louis Railroad Bearer Notes* by Larry D. McNabb in the Jan/Feb 1998 issue of *Paper Money*, the magazine of the Society of Paper Money Collectors, Inc. I am indebted to Mr. McNabb's article for the early history of Terre Haute and the railroad.



A freight bill for shipping supplies, including tea and spices, on the Terre Haute, Alton & St. Louis Railroad in 1857.

By 1862 it was decided to change the railroad company name to Saint Louis, Alton and Terre Haute. Preferred stock certificates of that date did not bear an imprinted revenue. The example below, dated February 23, 1863 has a part-perforated twenty-five cent first issue Certificate revenue on the back to pay the tax, an early matching usage. The imperforate first issue Protest revenue on the face is dated May 19, 1863, which date must be that of a transfer or some other function of which I am not currently aware.

The certificate is quite similar to that already described, being printed in red by Seibert & Bros, who at that time were at 93 Fulton St.



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Coin Show or Carter Had More RN's than Carter Had Little Liver Pills

Bill. J. Castenholz, VOTP

This article was produced in 1983 and has never been published. It gives us a rare look at how a very important collection of revenue stamped paper was disbursed.

Ever since the death of Mr. Amon Carter there have been many questions as to how his estate would be disbursed. In particular, Mr Carter was well known for his fabulous collections of currency, coins and other collectibles. However, his collection of revenue stamped paper was not, I believe, well known. True, he did report material for the "survey" but my belief is that the collection, so overshadowed by his collections of coins and currency, was not fully appreciated by the fraternity of RN collectors. We are going to have to change that assessment. Mr. Carter had a first class collection. My guess would be that it would rank in the top ten collections ever formed.

Recently, I was attempting to find what the disposition of the Carter RNs would be. The firm of Robert Siegel Auctions had been chosen to auction the stamps, and for a while I assumed that the stamped paper would be included. But as that began to look doubtful, inquiries were made which led to the firm that had acquired the stamped paper. Finally, the situation began to jell.

I had the opportunity to talk to the head of that firm. John Roe is an interesting fellow, very businesslike, but still personable.

When John saw the revenue stamped paper, he did what any reasonable man would do. He decided to collect it himself. Thus, the only pieces that were for sale were the duplicates.

I spoke to John about the RNs as soon as I knew that he was handling them. That was in the middle of the week. The American Numismatic Association Convention was to start the following Tuesday, in San Diego. (San Diego is about three hours by car from Los Angeles.) John told me he would be at the ANA show, and he would bring some of the Carter duplicates with him.

I laid my plans well. I would leave Los Angeles at 6:00 am in order to arrive in San Diego well before the doors opened to the ANA show at noon. It seemed important to be there early, because, who knows, maybe someone else would also be at the hunt.

Everything seemed well until Monday morning. Then one of the women in our office showed me a galley of typesetting. It was about five feet long, and entirely blank - not one letter on the whole sheet. Well, a bit of quick troubleshooting and a few phone calls settled it. We needed a replacement power supply for our VIP phototypesetter. One was available in New York, and would be on a courier flight the next morning. Things didn't look good!

The FedEx flight was only a few minutes late, the power supply was in my hands by 7:30 am, and in the machine by 9:00. Without any adjustments necessary (minor miracle), the typesetter was again up and running.

Obviously, if I had any chance to be in San Diego by the convention opening time I would have to fly. So I made reservations. By 10:00 am I was on my way to the airport. My reservation was for 11:04 on PSA, but Imperial Airlines had a 10:30 flight, which I decided to take. Imperial! If it's good for margarine, it's bound to be an exciting airline.

And it was.

The first thing that alerted me to the excitement to come was when I asked for the seating assignment, and the girl asked my name and how much I weighed. "How much do I weigh?" And the manifest. I was the only one on it! Well, at 10:25 I was in the terminal, and the aircraft, a twin engine turboprop which held about thirty people, didn't even have its engines running. At 10:30 we were I the air! Oh yes, there were three people on board: the Pilot, the Co-pilot, and me!

I like flying. But this was something else! With the cockpit door open, I could see almost as much as the fellows flying the plane. This $35 ride was like having my own airline. In fact, when we landed, the pilot said he hoped I liked having my own private plane.

An ANA shuttle bus was waiting at the curb, and by about 11:30 I had registered at the convention, and was waiting at the door to the bourse. I had even figured exactly where to

meet John Roe. Amazing! After what had happened with the typesetter, I was really grateful to be there.

"Hey, Bill."

I looked over to see Eric Jackson. He and Mike Aldrich had driven down to the show from Los Angeles for the same purpose I had come. Small world!

The ribbon was cut, and Eric, Mike and I were in a dead tie for first at John's bourse table.

We introduced ourselves, John took out the pile of RNs, and the fun began. Eric and I decided that the only fair way to buy was to buy together and then divide up the purchases later. And this we did.

A later phone call to Joe Einstein revealed that Amon Carter apparently did not report all of the RNs he had in his possession. Some of the major omissions seemed to occur in the A10's, the "tapeworms."

The tapeworms were the first things I pulled from the pile. There were several. John checked to make sure he had each variety before declaring anything as duplication. I saw four complete documents with the 56 partials variety, three complete documents with the 53 partials variety, and about ten cut squares where only the stamp was left. Apparently at least one other tapeworm was sold prior to this show, accounting for at least eight complete documents. The total of all varieties (complete documents) reported in the Survey was only eighteen!

A large number of insurance policies also were included. Of the Liverpool, & London & Globe Insurance Company, three pieces, two on blue paper, bore the R6 imprint. There was a T6 on blue paper, three V4's, two of which were on white, one on blue, and two U6's, both on white paper. In addition, a continuation of policy form also bore the V4. It was on white paper. All of the Liverpool & London & Globe pieces were used. (I have never seen an unused RN from this company.)

On North American Life Insurance policies there was a $1,000 Wife's Endowment policy bearing a U1a, two V6a policies insuring Own Life and Life of Another, one for $3,000, the other for $5,000, and a $10,000 Joint Lives Policy bearing a W2a. All policies were unissued, and each bore the two line printed redemption.

In addition to the larger pieces there were four A1 receipts, the usual great variety of B1's, some B3's, B6's, B10's, a lovely B13 unused, and 19 B13's used! Also there were six mint C2's, a C17, nine mint G3's, two mint I1's, and four used J11's. And I shouldn't forget the three mint Q1's on Erie Railroad vouchers.

Addendum

It has now been almost sixteen years since Amon Carter's revenue stamped paper was disbursed. In that intervening time more information has come to light. Here are a few of the facts sprinkled with some pure speculation.

John Roe didn't keep Carter's collection for a long time. Very early in 1988 the collection was procured by Eric Jackson. At that time I had an opportunity to see some of the more important pieces. Some of them were stunning, such as the North American and Italian Steamship Company stock certificate with interest bearing coupons and a deep carmine T4 on the face.

The only T7 to ever surface originated from this collection. It was on a Liverpool & London & Globe insurance policy. What looked at first like an ordinary B20 printed on both sides of a William Topping & Company receipt was actually a B20b bearing the inverted imprint on one side.

Some of the other notable pieces contained in this collection were a number of important insurance policies such as Liverpool & London & Globe U6 and U7; Washington Insurance Company V4, R6 and T6; a great array of North American Life Insurance Company pieces of various face differences and a number of L&L&G policy renewals. Mention should also be made of an R3 on a Washington Insurance renewal and an R3 on an Empire City Fire Insurance policy. Many of the Carter-Roe pieces are illustrated in the New York volume of the Field Guide to Revenue Stamped Paper.

Finally, a purple Type A and an E type printed sideways on a check were noted

I remember Joe Einstein's comment contained a bit of frustration over the good-sized group of "tapeworms" in Carter's collection. He remarked that Carter had not reported more than a couple of these rarities (which were duly noted in A Handbook for United States Revenue Stamped Paper authored by Joe, Tom Kingsley and Dick DeKay.)

I have always found it interesting that the only known U3, on an L&L&G policy turned up at just the time that John Roe sold Carter's RN's. But the collector who purchased the U3 told me he was quite sure the piece was not ex Carter. Such are the difficulties when trying to track these rare pieces!

Footnote to "A Funny Thing Happened..."

Bob Hohertz

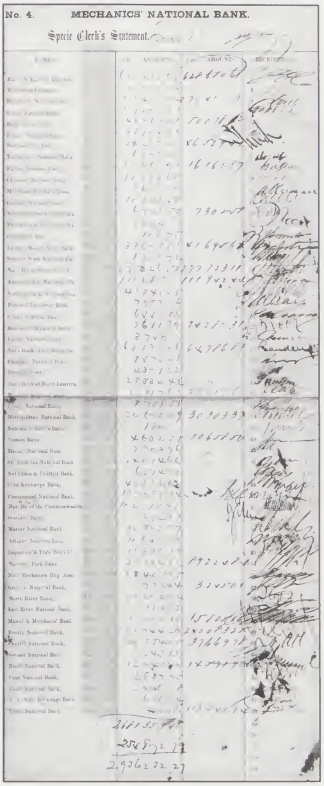
In the preceding article Bill Castenholz mentions "tapeworms" several times. My fifty-six partial impression copy is probably one of the four that Bill found at the show, or perhaps the one that John Roe held back for his own collection.

I went by John's table at the Memphis Paper Money Show some five or six years back and asked him if he had anything interesting for me. At first the said he didn't, but then he told me to wait a minute, and found the copy illustrated among some papers in his briefcase. I know he said it was from the Carter collection, and he also mentioned something about having saved it back when most of the rest had been sold. Beyond that, all I remember is that he quoted a very favorable price, and I quickly bought it. The reason I think it may have been one he initially saved for himself is that many copies have staining on the left side, where this one has very little

What are the tapeworms? They are the surviving clearing-house receipts used by the Mechanics' National Bank of New York. Each Saturday a group of clerks would gather to record transfer balances between each of the banks in the system. This was done by one group of clerks sitting on the inside of a circular counter and another group, with cash and receipts, circling the table in an organized fashion, leaving money and having the receipts signed. The whole process took six minutes to transfer funds between some fifty-seven banks. No wonder there are ink blots and scribbled signatures on the statements!

Each receipt was taxed two cents, and the string of overlapping imprinted revenues running down the left side is the inspiration for the nickname "tapeworm." At least some of the other banks involved probably used similar receipts, but if so, none but those from the Mechanics' National Bank seem to have survived.

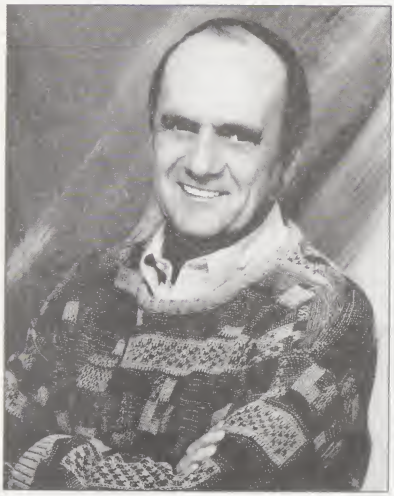
Ron Lesher wrote a scholarly and entertaining article on the tapeworms for the Fifty-sixth American Philatelic Congress Book, 1990. The comments on the use of the documents are summarized from it.



A specie clerk statement which was at one time housed in the Amon Carter collection, and sold to the Editor by John Roe.

CELEBRITY CHECKS
by Lance Campbell

Bob Newhart



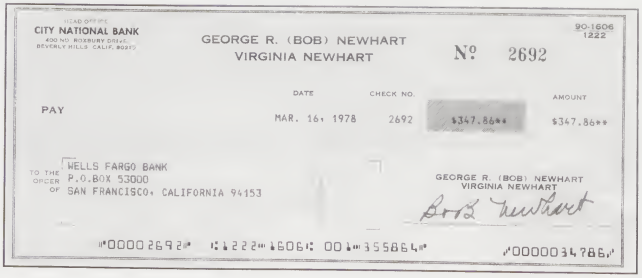
George Robert Newhart, better known to television audiences as simply "Bob" Newhart, was born September 5, 1929, in Chicago, Illinois. Like most comedians, Newhart never intended to be a comedian. After graduating from college, Newhart studied law. But law school wasn't his forte and he decided to try his hand at accounting instead. When asked, "Why accounting?" he replied in typical Newhart style, "Because I looked like an accountant." He must have been a hit at tax time.

Unable to confine his dry-wit style of humor to the accountant's office, he cut his first comedy album in 1960. The album, "The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart," was an instant success. He decided that comedy was more to his liking than financial ledgers. It didn't take long to catch the attention of Hollywood. In 1966 he starred in his first television show, "The Bob Newhart Show."

When you hear "The Bob Newhart Show" mentioned you have to stop and ask, "Which Bob Newhart Show?" There were several "Bob Newhart Shows" that came and went between 1966 and the 1990s. Some prefer the show where Newhart played the role of Dr. Hartley, the psychologist. My favorite series, however, is his latest one where he played opposite the late Mary Hart as the co-owners of the Stratford Inn.

While Newhart is best known for his television series, he also tried his hand at film work. You may not remember but he had parts in *Catch-22*, *Cool Millions*, *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, and *Cold Turkey*.

The illustrated check was cut on an account Bob shared with his wife, Virginia Newhart. The account was maintained at the City National Bank of Beverly Hills, California. This check was made out to Wells Fargo Bank in the amount of $347.86. Newhart signed the check on March 16, 1978.



Announcements

Officers and Board

Nominations for Board members may be made at any time now. There is no reason that the same individuals should stay in the same posts year after year. Board membership is not particularly time-consuming, and any interested member may run. Officers are chosen from members of the Board, so if you are interested in any office, you need to run for the Board as a first step. It would be refreshing to have a contested election!

Regional Contacts

Martha Cox instituted the system of Regional Contacts to make sure that someone in each arbitrary group of states would be available to help schedule ASCC meetings at appropriate shows, perhaps report interesting developments in the region, and serve as a general resource. Three Conatct positions are open at the moment: MT, WY, ID because Doug McDonald moved back to Nevada, and VA, WV, PA and NC, SC, GA, AL because the two individuals who were in those positions did not renew membership. There is little work involved in being a Contact for your area unless you want to become active in promoting the ASCC in some way locally, so **PLEASE** would a member from each of those areas volunteer to serve as a resource?

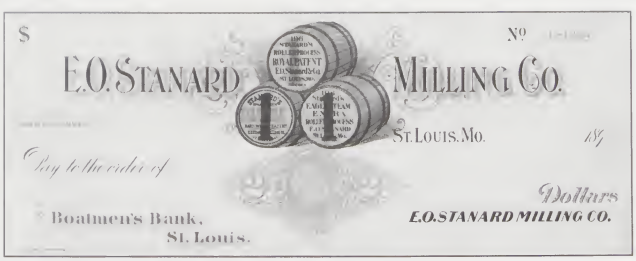
Check Pool

We have an offer to run a reconstituted Check Pool, and hope to have more to announce on this matter in the next issue.

Shows

See the information on the Saint Louis 14th Annual National and World Paper Money Convention on page 9.

Since there is space, I'd like to share with you a Saint Louis check that I am fortunate to own. A local dealer bought an album from the widow of a collector who died several years ago, and in the back there were two pages with checks hinged in them. Five were from Saint Louis, none of which I had seen before. The one below is perhaps the most attractive unused Spanish American War revenue stamped check in my collection.



This check is very colorful. The numerals on the barrels are red, blue and green, respectively, there are pink 'clouds' behind the barrels and part of the company name and Boatmen's Bank is printed in a greenish-blue. The barrels themselves are light tan, and the word "Reliable" on the bottom left one is in red. With the orange imprinted Type RN-X7, it is striking indeed. Is anyone aware of another of these?

Secretary's Report
Coleman Leifer

This report includes all changes received through August 28, 1999

NEW MEMBERS

1661 COMPTON, JOHN F. 18612 80th Av West Edmonds WA 98026-5818
1657 DAO, MOH ZON 251/4C Zai Men 1 Road Shanghai 200041 China 7
1656 HOHERTZ, MELANIE Apt 22F One Ten Grant Minneapolis MN 55403 1
(By Robert Hohertz)
1664 LAGOS, JOHN B. PO Box 3812 Ann Arbor MI 48106 8-9, 11, 20, 23-24
1665 MIZROCH, STEVE G. 71 Bryn Mawr Dr San Rafael CA 94901-1817
1663 SANDERS, RUSS 193 Bailey Rd Buffalo, SC 29321 1, 2 (SC), 3-4, 8-11, 14, 20-22, 25-26, 30-32
1660 SCHMOOK, HARRY C. 604 13th Av Union Grove WI 53182 1-6, 8-10, 22, 26, 30-32
(Thru the Internet)
1659 SLATON, GEORGE R. 4810 Wrightsville Av Wilmington NC 28403
(Thru Coin World)
1662 STEIN, EDMUND W.E. (D) PO Box 695 Dover MA 02030-0695
1658 VOLLAN, DONALD K. 1316 N. 12th Avenue West Bend WI 53090 2 (SD, Midwest especially), 20
(Thru Tom Casper, Milwaukee Numismatic Society)

REINSTATED FROM NPD LIST

1515 KEUSCH, ERNEST E. 135 Woodland Rd Madison NJ 07940

ADDRESS CHANGES

0840 MCDONALD, DOUGLAS B. 4790 Cauglin Pkwy PMB 500 Reno NV 89509
1548 GORITY, RICHARD D. 4722 E. Bell Rd., Apt. 1054 Phoenix AZ 85032-9364
1527 SCHAFER, TODD 1020 NW 39th St Topeka KS 66618-1118
1558 TAYLOR, ALLAN H. 62H Stephenson St Blenheim New Zealand

DECEASED

0068 CRISWEL, GROVER C.

DROPPED - NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

1624 AUSTIN, NATHAN D.
1625 BRYAN, GORDON
1630 CORMACK, JOHN
1623 HECHT, MICHAEL F.
1632 LAMBRIGHT, GLENN J.
1628 LOCKMAN, THOMAS W.
1634 MOORE, DAVID L.
1627 PARKINSON, PATRICK M.

Member Exchange

Wanted: RN-type checks from the Northeastern states. Have RN checks of same area to trade. Will send xerox copies. **Joseph Garsick**, 8-C Maine Ct., Matawan, NJ 07747.

Collector of Missouri checks looking to trade and correspond with other collectors of Missouri financial paper. **Gregg Voss**, 13 Roland Ave., Ballwin, MO 63021. Phone 314-230-9274.

Wanted: Bank checks/drafts pre-1900 in quantities of 100 or more. Describe fully and include your best price. **Steve Willock**, PO Box 35070, Tucson, AZ 85740.

Exchange postings will be taken from ASCC members who are collectors only. Postings of 20 words or less are free; please remit $3 each issue for postings of 21 to fifty words. Name and address do **not** count toward the 20 words.

Neither the Editor nor the ASCC can be responsible for compliance with any promises made in postings, or in response to them. Be very clear as to the value you place on your material when discussing a trade. Fairness and common courtesy are to be expected, but common sense must rule.

Letter to the Editor

Issue #50 of *The Check Collector* is like a reunion-due to the familiar names of many contributors of material. The last item by Michael Miller was a real surprise.

For the past 25 years, I have used a check protector that may lend a bit more to this story. Enclosed is a photocopy of my protector. It has a 2½" throat capacity and each arm bears a part-spherical indentation for a fingertip. One arm is inscribed "PAT JAN 7, 02 U.S.A." The protector is of nickel-plated steel.

Mr. Grabler evidently did receive his patent. The protector lent security by providing an uneven paper surface with considerable exposure of paper fibers. Using the types of pen and ink of that time, any alterations in the protected area produced ink splotches and interrupted lines. With a bit of practice, it is easy to use this device over the entire written amount of the check. It appears to be well made and able to work well for another twenty-five years.

Happy Collecting,
Bob Spence

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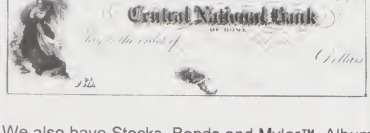

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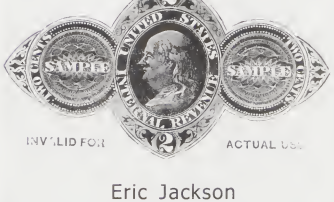

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